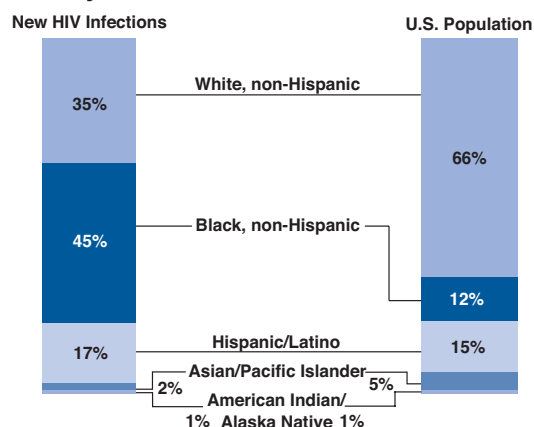


Latinos and HIV/AIDS

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Latinos in the United States continue to be heavily impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, accounting for higher rates of new HIV infections, AIDS cases, and people living with HIV than their white counterparts.^{1,2,3,4} The epidemic has also had a disproportionate impact on Latino young adults, and the impact varies across the country and by place of birth.^{1,5} Moreover, studies have shown that Latinos with HIV/AIDS may face additional barriers to accessing care than whites.^{6,7,8} Today, there are approximately 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., including nearly 200,000 Latinos.⁴ As the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the U.S., addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community takes on increased importance in efforts to improve the nation's health.

Figure 1: New HIV Infections & U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2006^{2,3,9}



Snapshot of the Epidemic

- Latinos account for 17% of new HIV infections and 18% of people living with HIV disease in 2006 (Figure 1).^{2,3,4} Latinos also account for 19% of new AIDS diagnoses in 2007.^{1,10}
- The AIDS case rate per 100,000 among Latino adults/adolescents was the third highest of any racial/ethnic group in the U.S. in 2007—about 3 times that of whites, but one-third that of Blacks (Figure 2).^{1,11} The HIV incidence rate for Latinos follows a similar pattern.³
- HIV was the 6th leading cause of death for Latino men and 5th for Latinas, ages 25–44, in 2006.¹²

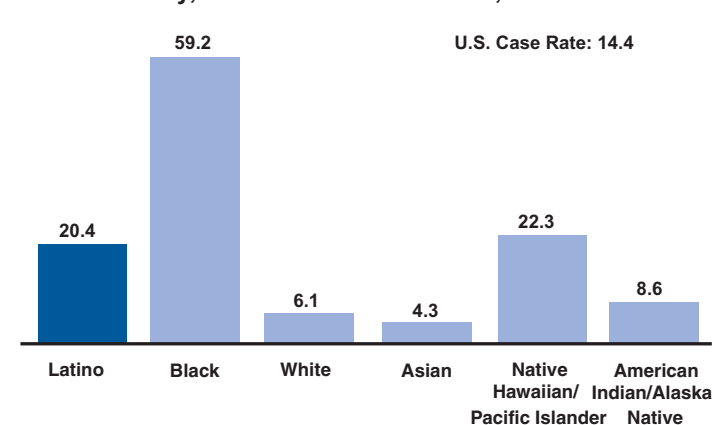
Key Trends and Current Cases

- The number of new infections among Latinos peaked in the late 1980s and has declined since then, and been fluctuating around 10,000 per year for most of the decade. Throughout the epidemic, the number of new HIV infections among Latinos has been lower than for whites and Blacks.³
- Latinos account for a growing share of AIDS diagnoses over the course of the epidemic, rising from 15% in 1985 to 19% in 2007; in recent years, this share has remained relatively stable.^{1,13}
- The number of Latinos living with AIDS has also increased over time, in part due to treatment advances but also due to the epidemic's continued impact on Latinos. Estimated AIDS prevalence among

Latinos increased by 26% between 2003 and 2007, compared to an 18% increase among whites.¹

- The number of deaths among Latinos with AIDS declined between 2003 and 2007, although Blacks and whites experienced more significant decreases.¹

Figure 2: AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, for Adults/Adolescents, 2007^{1,11}



Women and Young People

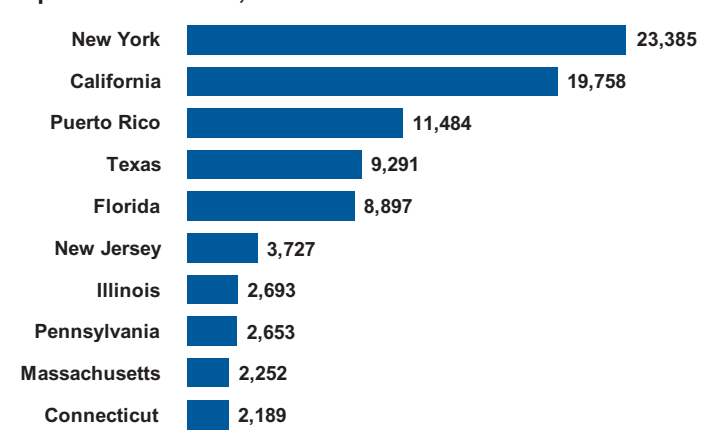
- Among women, Latinas account for 16% of new HIV infections and their HIV incidence rate is nearly 4 times the rate for white women, but about a quarter of the rate for Black women.¹⁴
- In looking at new AIDS cases in 2007 among women, Latinas similarly account for 15% of new cases; Black women account for 66% and white women account for 17%.^{1,10,11}
- Latinas represent 21% of AIDS cases diagnosed among all Latinos (men and women combined) in 2007; by comparison, white women represent 15% of cases among whites, and Black women represent 36% of cases diagnosed among Blacks.^{1,11}
- The AIDS case rate per 100,000 among Latinas (8.9) is 5 times higher than the case rate for white women (1.8).^{1,11}
- Latino teens, ages 13–19, account for 19% of AIDS cases among teens.⁵ Latinos ages 20–24 account for 24% of new AIDS cases reported among young adults, but represent 18% of U.S. young adults, in 2007.⁵

Transmission

- HIV transmission patterns among Latino men vary from those of white men. Both groups are most likely to be infected through sex with other men. Heterosexual transmission accounts for a greater share of infections among Latino men than white men.^{1,14,15}
- Latinas are somewhat more likely to have been infected through heterosexual transmission than white women, although this is the most common transmission route for both groups and for women overall. White women are somewhat more likely to have been infected through injection drug use than Latinas.^{1,14}
- Studies have found high HIV/AIDS prevalence among Latino gay and bisexual men.¹⁶ A study in 5 major U.S. cities found that 17% of Latino gay and bisexual men in the study were infected with

HIV. Prevalence among white gay and bisexual men was 21% and 46% among Black gay and bisexual men, the highest of any group.¹⁷ Knowledge of HIV status among those already infected is also very low.¹⁶ In addition, newly infected Latino gay and bisexual men are younger than their white counterparts, with those ages 13–29 accounting for 43% of new infections among Latino gay and bisexual men compared to 25% among whites.¹⁴

Figure 3: Number of Latinos Estimated to be Living with AIDS, Top 10 States/Areas, 2007¹⁸



Geography

Although AIDS cases among Latinos have been reported throughout the country, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed:

- AIDS case rates per 100,000 among Latinos are highest in the eastern part of the U.S., particularly in the Northeast.¹⁸
- AIDS prevalence among Latinos is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 88% of Latinos estimated to be living with AIDS in 2007. New York, California, and Puerto Rico top the list (Figure 3). Ten states also account for the majority of newly reported AIDS cases among Latinos (83% in 2007).^{18,19}
- AIDS cases among Latinos vary by place of birth. Latinos born in the U.S. account for 41% of estimated AIDS cases among Latinos in 2007, followed by Latinos born in Mexico (23%) and Puerto Rico (20%).^{1,20} HIV transmission patterns among Latinos also vary by place of birth.¹

Access to and Use of the Health Care System

The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), the only nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS receiving regular or ongoing medical care for HIV infection, found that Latinos fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality, differences that diminished over time but were not completely eliminated.⁶ In addition, HCSUS found that Latinos were more likely to report postponing medical care due to factors such as lack of transportation.⁷ Latinos were also more likely than whites to delay care after their HIV diagnosis.⁸

Health Insurance

Having health insurance, either public or private, improves access to care. Insurance coverage of those with HIV/AIDS varies by race/ethnicity, as it does for the U.S. population overall.

- The HCSUS study found that Latinos with HIV/AIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with half relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. Approximately one quarter of Latinos with HIV/AIDS (24%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. Latinos were also about half as likely to be privately insured than whites (23% compared to 44%).²¹
- Insurance status also varies at the time of HIV diagnosis. Analysis of data from 25 states between 1994 and 2000 found that Latinos were less likely than whites to have private coverage and more likely to be covered by Medicaid at the time of their HIV diagnosis. A third of Latinos were uninsured at the time of their diagnosis, higher than other groups.²²

HIV Testing

- Among the U.S. population overall, Latinos are more likely than whites to report having been tested for HIV in the last 12 months (28% compared to 14%).²³
- Among those who are HIV positive, CDC data indicate that four in 10 Latinos (41%) were tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS within one year of testing positive (in those states/areas with HIV name reporting); by comparison, 35% of Blacks and 34% of whites were tested late.¹

Concern About HIV/AIDS

- A recent survey found that Latinos express concern about HIV/AIDS. While only one in 10 Latinos named it as the most urgent health problem facing the nation, more than one-third named it as a more urgent problem for their community than it was a few years ago.²³
- One in four Latinos say they are personally very concerned about becoming infected with HIV, a proportion that has declined since the mid-1990's. Latino parents are more concerned about a son or daughter becoming infected with HIV, with four in 10 (39%) reporting they are very concerned.²³

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